

Office of Transition Initiatives

KENYA/EASTLEIGH

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) expanded its key objectives in May 2011 to include a counter extremism component in the Nairobi suburb of Eastleigh. Eastleigh has a large population of Somali immigrants, including many youth. Disenfranchisement of youth in the face of systemic marginalization, limited access to higher education, inadequate employment, crime, and corruption has weakened their resilience and increased their susceptibility to extremist ideologies. Coupled with the highly radicalized environment, youth in Eastleigh and its environs (Kamukunji) remain exposed to extremist ideologies and vulnerable to recruitment by groups such as Al-Shabaab.

To counter this threat, the KTI-Eastleigh project (KTI-E) seeks to build moderation and foster identity and self-confidence in at-risk youth to enable them to reject the recruitment efforts of extremist groups. To achieve this objective, KTI-E works with locally-based organizations and the Eastleigh community at large to respond to risk factors through a three pronged approach:

- Increased propensity among youth for moderation and non-violence
- Empowering local youth
- Improved livelihoods for youth

GRANTS SUMMARY

Since its inception in July 2011, KTI-E has funded **88** activities totaling **\$3,034,244**. This reporting period, a total of **45** activities totaling **\$2,074,820** were cleared.

Ongoing activities

Building Trust and Fostering Moderation through Partnership with District Officers: In Eastleigh, the government and government agencies are viewed by the residents as suspicious and the majority of the youth in the area are wary of government officials. To create a favorable environment for positive engagement with the community, while mitigating pull factors associated with radicalism, KTI-E provided the District Officer (DO) for Pumwani with logistical support to improve mandated public meetings. By having effective public forums the DO has been able to bridge the gap between community and the government in his area. With the success of the first public forum that had more than 400 individuals attend, KTI-E engaged the DO further, so as to amplify the subsequent forums through an exhibition. With KTI-E's support the DO was able to hold the first ever exhibition that engaged youth from both Ethnic Somali groups and non-Ethnic Somali associations. The exhibition enabled youth groups to show case their wares and various talents. The exhibition, which was held after the Westgate attack,¹ helped intensify the reach of the DO as a majority of residents attended the event, including more 17,000 individuals who received messages on the event from KTI's SMS system. As a result of the networking opportunity that the DO exhibition provided, Kamkunji Network, which is currently funded by KTI-E, welcomed significantly more new members after the exhibition.

¹ After Westgate, where armed gunmen killed 67 people and injured many others, Kenyans coined a term #weareone to avoid xenophobic attacks against Muslims and Ethnic Somalis.

Capacity Building of Eastleigh Partners: While working with various groups in the Kamukunji area, one of the most prevalent needs that KTI-E identified was capacity building to ensure the youth groups being engaged in program activities were sustainable. To develop their organizational systems and strengthen their structure, KTI engaged [REDACTED], as a result of their experience with similar work for the USAID funded Kenya Civil Society Strengthening Program (KSSP), to enhance the capacity of four local Eastleigh –based organizations. The four partner organizations were taken through an intense training program on fundraising, procurement procedures and regulations, financial management for their organizations as well as idea generation and proposal writing to enable them to seek additional support from other donor organizations besides KTI safeguarding their sustainability after KTI's tenure ends. Through the capacity building of these organizations, their system structures have changed making them more resilient to take forward future CVE projects and manage them effectively.

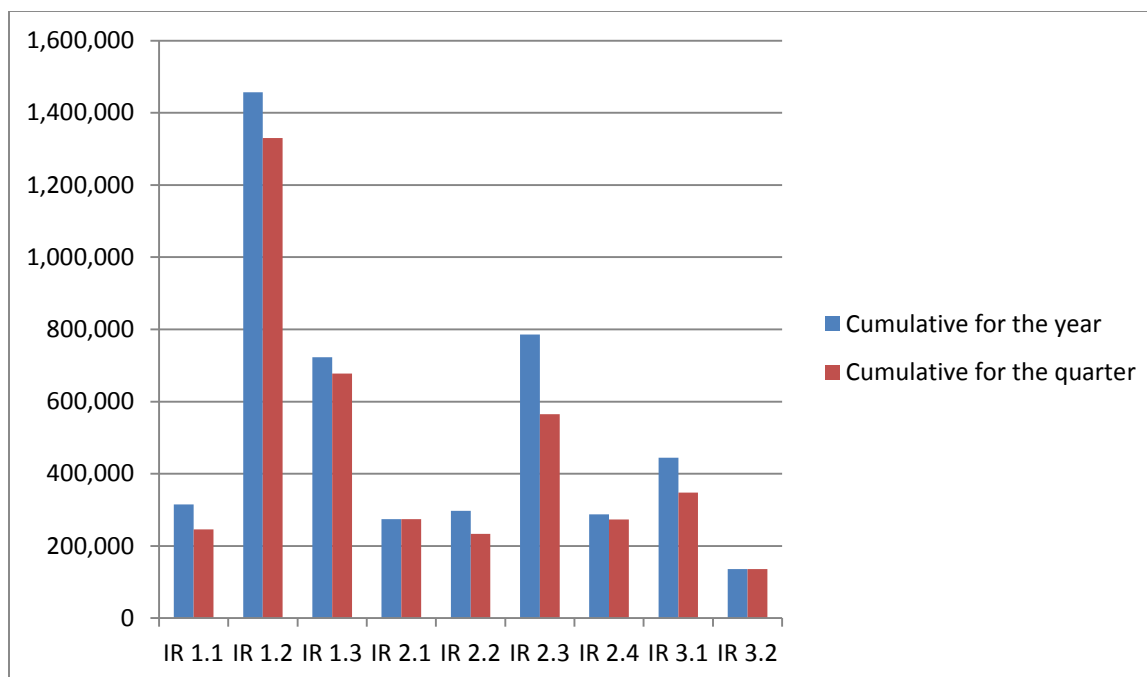
Youth Engagement through Movies: Youth in Eastleigh are comprised mainly of ethnic Somali refugees. These youth are faced with a multitude of challenges which make them more vulnerable to radicalization. In addition to these, the youth in Eastleigh of Somali descent have to contend with xenophobic attitudes in the aftermath of various terror attacks in the Country. In the month of Ramadan, building on KTI's success with the initial grant in 2011 (CHXEAS007), KTI began to hold a series of screening events rallying youth to view films and discuss topics associated with extremism and tolerance. Through the creation of a platform where youth were able to have constructive and non-violent discussions on issues of extremism, radicalism and tolerance through the use of documentaries and movies resulted in more than 500 youth learning to address differences of opinions in a non-combative way. Discussion amongst the constituents of the documentaries and films has played a key role in helping to build tolerance for each other's opinion and for shunning radicalism.

Pending activities

- **CHXEAS087 – Fault lines: Discussions about Extremism on Mass Media, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This activity is aimed at conducting forums for the grantees to engage in a media platform where they will share with the public various policies on violent extremism, how the media reports on it and the various successes that can be attributed to the KTI-E program
- **CHXEAS097 – Qualitative Study on Countering Violent Extremism Programming, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This grant is aimed at helping KTI-E to document the various impact it has had in the Kamukunji area
- **CHXEAS010 – National CVE Conference, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This activity is for the first CVE conference to develop strategies on combating extremism. This three-day conference will bring together government, religious, and youth leaders and other key stakeholders across Kenya.

The below graph illustrates KTI-E's annual and cumulative expenditures on activities by Intermediate Result (I.R.):

Eastleigh Activities by I.R.



IR 1.1: Enhanced advocacy capacity and sustained positive dialogue with GOK

IR 1.2: Improved communication channels for youth to receive information and/or discuss sensitive topics

IR 1.3: Improved messaging and outreach capacity of moderate voices including women and religious leaders

IR 2.1: Increased access to community, recreational and cultural activities

IR 2.2: Improved leadership capacity among youth

IR 2.3: Improved networking among youth organizations

IR 2.4: Improved access to counseling and mentoring services

IR 3.1: Improved attitude for meritocratic work

IR 3.2: Improved linkages to training, financial and other support

PROGRAM EVALUATION

KTI engaged a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist who carried out a desk study of KTI-E and had several conversations with members of the team on what was needed to finalize a Partner Performance Management Plan (PPMP). After deliberations with the team the KTI-E PPMP was revised in February 2013. To ensure that the team had a clear understanding of their roles in implementing the PPMP, the team went through an intensive two-day training on the PPMP.

With the PPMP in place the team established structures for data collection and aggregation. The team also revised previous indicators in the initial grant to match the PPMP. The grantees were also given the new reporting guidelines that they would have to follow during a training session with them.

To gain an in depth understanding of the KTI-E program, the OTI Lessons Learned Team (LLT) interviewed the Eastleigh program staff. They were interested in knowing how the program set its priorities for the quarters, how they ensured that the operational procedures that the team used were relevant and contributed to streamlining the process of implementation as well how the team perceived KTI-E impact in the community.

KTI-E held a rolling assessment to develop collaboratively the final work plan for the program and review the current grant portfolios and what could be done to enhance them as well as plan for the close out of the

program. The rolling assessment was attended by the program team as well as OTI/Tunisia's Country Representative.

NEXT STEPS

- Final meeting with the Eastleigh Advisory Committee to deliberate on lessons learned.
- Commencement of KTI-E's qualitative study and quantitative survey.
- Close out of the KTI-E program by the end of February 2014.